

K-348 Rockwell Building

18th century; 1860's?

Shastertown

private

If this building is a remodeled edition of the original tavern that occupied its location, the basic structure was erected in the eighteenth century. In its present form, with Greek Revival facelifting, it dates from the 1860's when the reknowned builder, Alfred Rockwell, owned it or from the 1870's under the ownership of William Vannort, A Greek Revival enthusiast.

The first mention of a building being on the property is in an 1849 deed in which "the tavern house" brought \$1000. At present, it is in good condition but needs its asbestos shingles removed to regain its nineteenth century aspect.

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC
Rockwell Building
AND/OR COMMON

K-348

K-56

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER
Park Row and Cross Street

CITY, TOWN
Chestertown

VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

First

STATE
Maryland

COUNTY
Kent

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE <input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL <input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL <input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME
Park Row Venture, Inc.
STREET & NUMBER

Telephone #: none

CITY, TOWN
Chestertown

VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

Maryland 21620

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Office of the County Clerk

STREET & NUMBER

Kent County Court House

CITY, TOWN

Chestertown

STATE

Md.

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

none

DATE

☐ FEDERAL ☐ STATE ☐ COUNTY ☐ LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

K-348

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

This building has facades on both Park Row and Cross Street and occupies the north corner of the intersection of these streets on a piece of Town Lot 41 in Chestertown.

It is a 2-story, 2bay by 5 bay frame nineteenth century office building built on an L plan with a low hip roof and essentially Greek Revival trim. Its 2-bay facade faces onto Park Row, its 5-bay facade extends down Cross Street to the Eliason Motors display lot.

The building sits on a low brick basement. There are wood pilasters on the three street corners of the ~~building~~ building which sit on brick piers. The building is presently covered with asbestos shingles.

On the Cross Street facade is a central entrance with Greek Revival trim. There are two brick steps up to the door, which is glass. The door is framed by plain pilasters which are topped by large brackets which support a prominent cornice. The freize beneath the cornice has relief decoration on it and carries two additional smaller brackets which support the cornice.

All windows on the Cross Street facade have bracketed window hoods, which are smaller versions of the cornice over the door. All are two panes over two and none have louvered shutters. There is a fascia board beneath the shallow box cornice.

The low hip roof is of standing seam tin.

The Park Row 2-bay facade has an entrance in the southeast (right) bay; the door and first story window share a continuous cornice. Both have brackets and decorative freizes over them. The door has a 2-pane transom. The second story windows also have hoods.

The L wing is four bays by 2 bays and is not quite squared to the northeast elevation. It has a very low gabled roof. Its windows are mostly six panes over six without louvered shutters.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

8 SIGNIFICANCE

K-348

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES ~~1840's~~ 1840's; 1860's

BUILDER/ARCHITECT unknown

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

If this building is a remodeled edition of the original tavern that occupied its location, the basic structure dates back into the eighteenth century. In its present form, it dates from the mid-nineteenth century when it got its Greek Revival face-lifting, perhaps in the 1840's or perhaps in the 1860's, its early years of ownership by the reknowned carpenter/builder Alfred Rockwell. (Rockwell built the monumental Eliason House at 108 Spring Avenue.)

The first mention of a building being on the lot is in a deed from Mary S. (Mrs. George Washington) Thomas to Herny W. Earnest in 1849, when it is referred to as "the tavern house" and brought \$1000. From 1852 to 1864, it served as an office for the Wickes, lawyers.

The building has recently been "improved," but would benefit further by complete restoration of its original clapboard exterior.

K-348

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY _____

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION Beginning at the norther corner formed by the intersection of Park Row and Cross Street and running thence (1) by and with the westerly side of Cross Street in a northeasterly direction and binding thereon to the lands of Eliason Motors and (2) at right angles and by and with the lands of Eliasson Motors and binding thereon in a northeasterly direction a distance of 70 feet more or less to the lands ~~efnow~~ or formerly of A.G. Carroll and E.R. Granger; thence (3) at right angles and in a southwesterly direction by and with said Carroll and Granger lands 126 feet more or less to a point at the lands now or formerly of E. Kirby and J.W. Ross; thence (4) at right ~~angle~~ angles and by and with

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES
the Ross Lands in a southeasterly direction a distance of 49 feet ~~more~~ or less to a point thence STATE (5) at right angles and in a south- COUNTY westerly direction by and with said Ross lands a distance of 23 feet, 9 inches more or less to the northern side of Park Row;

thence (6) at right angles and by and with the northerly side of Park Row to the place of beg.

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Robert Neill Historic Site Surveyor

ORGANIZATION

Maryland Historic Trust/ Town of Chestertown

STREET & NUMBER

DATE

July, 1976

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

STATE

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature, to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 Supplement.

The Survey and Inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 267-1438

Summary of Title Search on
Rockwell Building

William Stevenson to Peregrine Leatherbury.

Robert Constable to Peregrine Leatherbury (1782)

Peregrine Leatherbury to Mary S. Thomas (his daughter) Wills Liber 8 107 (1801)

George Washington Thomas and Mary S. Thomas to Richard Frisby
and back again BC 5 189 and BC 5 193 (1808).

Mary S. Thomas to Henry W. Earnest JNG 12 141 (1849) \$1000.
("tavern house and lot")

Henry W. Earnest to Joseph Wickes JFG 1 124 (1852) \$900.
("all that Tavern House and lot..")

Joseph Wickes leaves to Joseph A. Wickes (his son).

Joseph A. Wickes and Pere L. Wickes to Alfred H. Rockwell JKH 4 422 (1864) \$1500.
("frame building" mentioned which the Wickes are using as an office)

Alfred H. Rockwell mortgages property to William Vannort JKH 9 241 (1870)

William Vannort to Mary C. Simpers (for life). Wills JCS 1 88 (1883)
("Item 5")

Mary C. Simpers to Henry G. Simpers and J.R. Simpers RAS 19 446 (1938)
("Item 11")

J. Raymond Simpers died intestate. Property descends to Mary S. Nuttle.

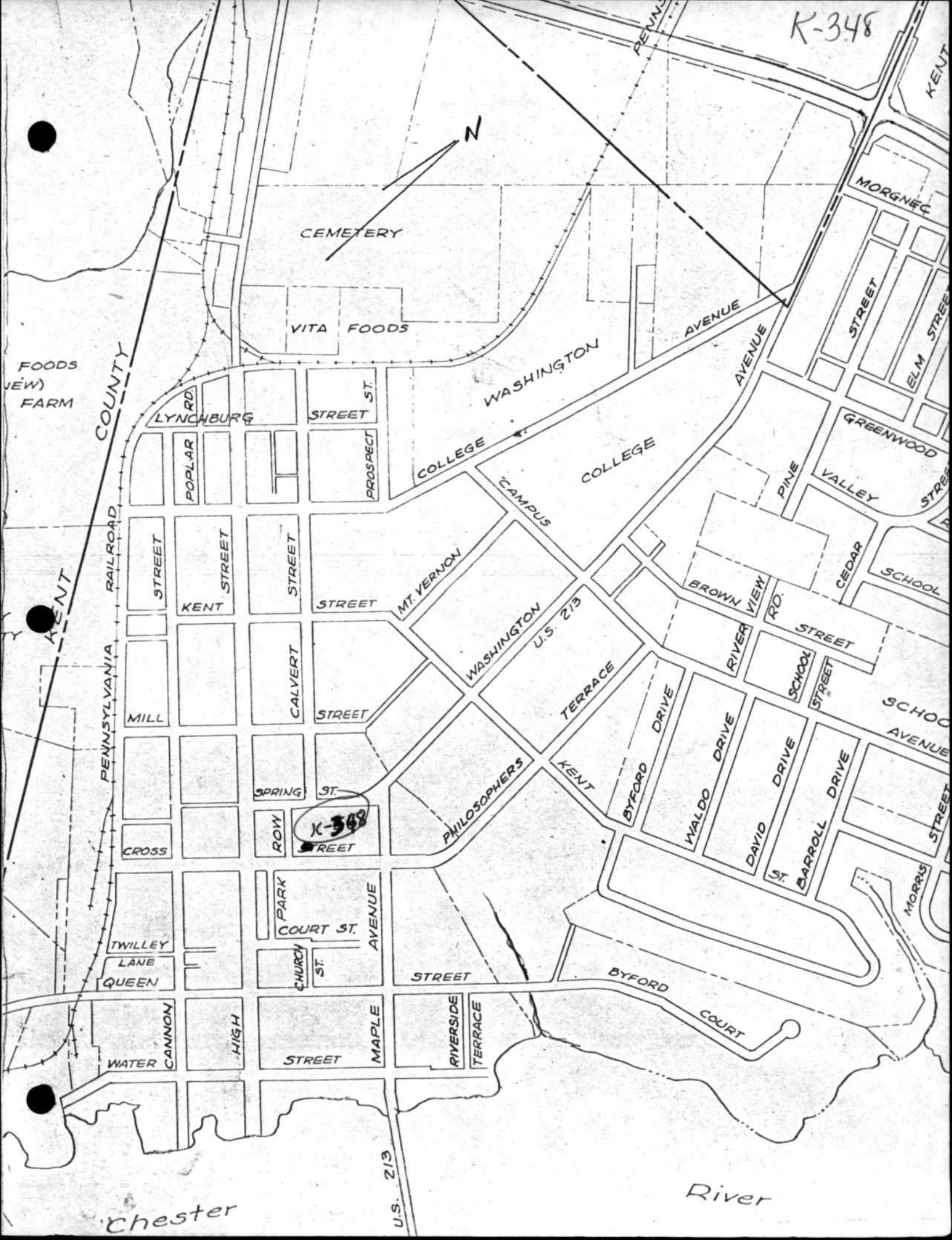
Mary S. Nuttle to Kenan Corporation WHG 52 327 (1957)

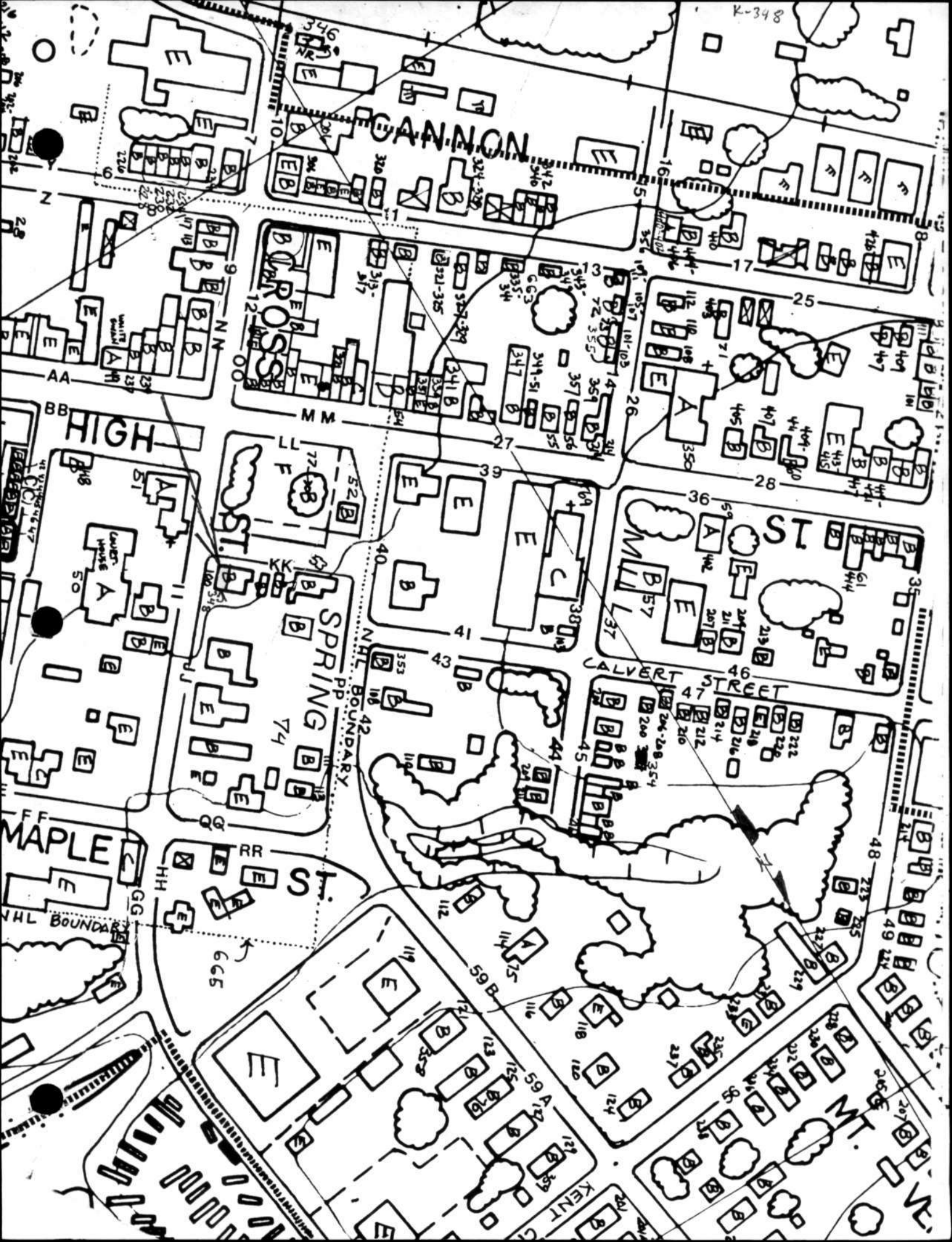
Kenan Corporation to William Belt Townsend and wife WHG 52 327 (1958)

William B. Townsend to Park Row, Inc. EHP 30 268 (1969)

Park Row, Inc. to Park Row Ventures EHP 41 455 (1971)
("Parcel 5")

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K-348
Rockwell Building
Cross St. and Park Row
Chestertown
Chestertown Quad.
Kent County





K348 Rockwell Bldg.

1/77 S



*-348 Rockwell Bldg.

1/77 S+E